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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/824,145

04/13/2004

Masahiro Kisono

2271/72197

6384

23432 7590 06/10/2009

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EXAMINER

ANWARI, MACEEH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2444

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/10/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/824,145 | Applicant(s) KISONO, MASAHIRO | |
| | Examiner MACEEH ANWARI | Art Unit 2444 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 April 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/07/2008</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to communications file on 4/16/2009. **Claim(s) 14** have been amended. **Claim(s) 17** has been newly added. No other claims have been amended, added, or canceled. Accordingly, **claim(s) 1- 17** are pending.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4/16/2009 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 1- 17** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 1- 17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Onaga (U.S. Patent No.: 6,266,693 B1)**, and further in view of **Ohnishi et al. (hereinafter Ohnishi, U.S. Patent No.: 5, 655,152)**.

Regarding **claim 1**, **Onaga** teaches: a network terminal apparatus connected to other network terminal apparatuses via a network, the network terminal apparatus comprising: a memory; an acquiring unit that transmits a command requesting setting information to one of the other network terminal apparatuses, receives the setting information from the one of the other network terminal apparatuses in response to said command (Figures 5-8; request/receive status information, display and provide setting changes); a setting unit that sets the received setting information to the network terminal apparatus and stores the received setting information in the memory (Figures 7-8; update host with setting information) a transmitting unit that retrieves the setting information from the memory, in response to receipt of an acquisition request from another one of the other network terminal apparatuses, requesting the setting information stored in the memory, and transmits the retrieved setting information to said another one of the other network terminal apparatuses in response to said acquisition request (Figures 7-8; requesting status updates and getting setting changes and storing).

Claim 2: Wherein the command from the acquiring unit specifies a designated item of the setting information, and the network terminal apparatus receives the designated item from said one of the other network terminal apparatuses (Figures 7-8; requesting status updates and getting setting changes and storing).

Claim 3: Wherein one of said other network terminal apparatuses is a setting information management server that manages the setting information of the network terminal apparatuses, and the network terminal apparatus acquires the setting information from the setting information management server (Figures 7-8; File server).

Claim 4: Wherein the network terminal apparatus repeats the command at predetermined intervals, for acquiring the setting information from the setting information management server.

(Figures 7-8; requesting status updates and getting setting changes and storing).

6. Regarding **claim 5**, **Onaga** discloses the invention as described above, however does not appear to disclose wherein the network terminal apparatus, further comprising: a transforming unit that transforms the received setting information into format-adjusted setting information, if format of the received setting information does not match format of the network terminal apparatus, transforms the received setting information into format-adjusted setting information; wherein the setting unit sets the format-adjusted setting information to the network terminal apparatus and stores the format-adjusted setting information in the memory.

In the same field of endeavor, **Ohnishi** discloses the invention as described above, however does not appear to disclose wherein the network terminal apparatus, further comprising: a transforming unit that transforms the received setting information into format-adjusted setting information, if format of the received setting information

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does not match format of the network terminal apparatus, transforms the received setting information into format-adjusted setting information (**Abstract; selecting an available data output and adequate data format**); wherein the setting unit sets the format-adjusted setting information to the network terminal apparatus and stores the format-adjusted setting information in the memory (**Abstract and figures 1-8; output managing unit**).

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Ohnishi's** teachings of managing output data formats with the teachings of **Onaga** to make for a more compatible overall communication system (**Abstract**).

7. Regarding **claim 6 Onaga-Ohnishi** further disclose: Wherein the transforming unit transforms the received setting information based on style sheet that defines an attribute of each element of the setting information (**Abstract; selecting an available data output and adequate data format**).

The motivation for combining **Onaga** and **Ohnishi** would have been the same as in **claim 5**.

8. Regarding **claim 15 Onaga-Ohnishi** further disclose: wherein said setting information received by said network terminal apparatus from said one of the other network terminal apparatuses from said one of the other network terminal apparatuses corresponds to the setting of said one of the other network terminal apparatuses (**Figures 7-8; requesting status updates and getting setting changes and storing**).

The motivation for combining **Onaga** and **Ohnishi** would have been the same as in **claim 5**.

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9. Regarding **claim 16 Onaga-Ohnishi** further disclose: said another one of the other network terminal apparatuses is set based on the setting information received by said another one of the other network terminal apparatuses from said network terminal apparatus (Figures 4-8; status updates/checks and setting changes).

The motivation for combining **Onaga** and **Ohnishi** would have been the same as in **claim 5**.

10. Regarding **claim 17 Onaga-Ohnishi** further disclose: wherein the network terminal apparatus receives the setting information from the one of the other network terminal apparatuses in response to the setting information requesting command transmitted by the network terminal apparatus to the one of the other network terminal apparatuses, and the network terminal apparatus transmits the setting information to said another one of the other network terminal apparatuses in response to the acquisition request from said another one of the other network terminal apparatuses (Figures 4-8; information/status requests and getting setting changes and making setting change).

The motivation for combining **Onaga** and **Ohnishi** would have been the same as in **claim 5**.

Regarding **claims 7- 14** they are substantially the same as **claims 1-6 & 15- 17** and are thus rejected for reasons similar to those in rejecting **claims 1-6 & 15- 17**.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MACEEH ANWARI whose telephone number is

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(571)272-7591. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-5:00 PM ES.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

M.A.
/William C. Vaughn, Jr./
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2444